



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2023/2024

.... SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DIPLOMA IN HORTICULTURE

### HO/OS/HP/05/6: PRODUCE MUSHROOMS

DATE: APRIL 2023

TIME: 1½HOUR

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**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.**

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#### QUESTION ONE (40 MARKS)

1. Give four edible mushrooms grown in Kenya. (4marks)
2. Identify two PPEs to prevent inhalation of harmful gases sterilizing the substrate (2marks)
3. With aid of a diagram draw as simple structure of a mushroom (4marks)
4. Briefly explain two methods for sterilizing the substrate in substrate in Kenya. (4marks)
5. Highlight four component of a good mushroom house. (4marks)
6. Give documents used by farmers to evaluate the profitability of their mushroom production. (4marks)
7. Identify the material that is used in establishing and growing mushroom mycelium.
8. State five benefits of mushroom production. (5marks)
9. State four common insect pests in mushroom production. (4marks)
10. State five factors affecting the quality of mushrooms. (5marks)
11. State four importance of pasteurization in spawning. (4marks)

#### QUESTION TWO (15MARKS)

12. a) Discuss two Isolation techniques for getting pure culture (4 marks)
- b) Briefly describe six characters of good spawn (6marks)
- c) Discuss five factors to consider when starting mushroom farming (10marks)



13. a) State two common insect pests and three common insect pests in mushroom production. (5marks)
- b) Discuss five methods you recommend in managing pests in mushroom production. (10marks)
- c) Highlight FIVE qualities of a good compost for mushroom production. (5marks)
14. a) Briefly explain two reasons for Casing of mushroom beds necessary (4marks)
- b) Highlight five post-harvest activities of mushrooms. (5marks)
- c) Discuss five types of spawning mushroom spawn (10marks)
15. a) Discuss two methods of substrate treatment. (4marks)
- b) Describe five steps during mushroom harvesting. (5marks)
- c) Highlight five characteristics of a good casing. (5marks)

